

Passer domesticus-like chatter. I don't know where my notes are or I could give you information on the number of nests etc. . . .'

Though it does seem unlikely that O'Donel was only referring to the 'doodling' nests in grass described by Drs. Sálím Ali & J. H. Crook (*J. Bombay nat. Hist. Soc.* 56 : 463) and overlooked colonies in trees, it would appear from Dr. Koelz's report that the eastern birds also build in trees.

BOMBAY NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY,

91, WALKESHWAR ROAD,

BOMBAY 6,

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HUMAYUN ABDULALI

7. THE EASTERN STEPPE EAGLE [*AQUILA NIPALENSIS NIPALENSIS* (HODGSON)] ON THE SOUTH COL OF EVEREST

Members of the Indian Everest Expedition noticed three specimens of large birds of prey, lying dead on the South Col at a height of nearly 26,000 ft. (7925 m.) on 23rd May 1960. One of these was brought down and later identified as the Steppe Eagle [*Aquila nipalensis nipalensis* (Hodgson)].

This species is a migrant between India and central Asia and it is interesting to note that some of the birds migrate over the South Col which is indeed one of the most difficult areas to cross. It appears that the birds were overcome by weather conditions during their spring migration to the northern range of their distribution. The South Col is perhaps one of the regular migratory routes of this species as Tenzing in his biography mentions seeing a dead eagle, possibly of this species, on the South Col during the autumn expedition of the Swiss in 1952.

The measurements of the specimen collected by the Expedition are: Wing 585 mm.; tail 290 mm.; culmen 55 mm.; tarsus 98 mm.; hind claw 35 mm.

HIMALAYAN MOUNTAINEERING INSTITUTE,

DARJEELING,

June, 1960.

GYAN SINGH

Brigadier

[Mrs. Desirée Proud in *J. Bombay nat. Hist. Soc.* 53 (1): 71 records this species as 'very common' in the Nepal Valley all winter.—EDS.]